



THE ABTO GAZETTE

July, 2025

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John & Diane Snider's Sniderville Railroad

Photo by Don Sorenson

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President's Message July Gazette



July is already here. This is our time of the year when we hibernate INSIDE. Yes, our version of hibernations is just off from everywhere else. However, if you are going to be like us and travel out of town this coming weekend, please be safe. The AZ DPS will be out in great numbers trying to keep us all safe. Arizona's car accident statistics are way up right now, so let's not add to them. As always, prepare yourself and your car before any road trip.

Our June membership meeting was small, but we covered several topics that members have asked about. Different style couplers and how to adjust their heights has come up numerous times. Where do you lubricate that mysterious squeak and what do you use for it? Grease, oil, graphite, wet or dry, were just a few of the answers. Your car is too lite to stay on the curves, so how do I make it heavier and how much is too much.

Our July meeting will try to concentrate on landscaping our layouts. If our samples survive this heat.

The train collection of a past member that we were trying to bring to you at a special auction went to EBAY instead. They had a lot of specialty cars and engines, but money talks. A local EBAY sales house got it. Oh well, we tried.

A great pair of our long time members are celebrating their 50th anniversary this month. Please congratulate both Ernie and Anita Broughton for a job well done. It's a life long commitment with many more years to come. And yes, I have a picture confirming that Ernie had hair and a mustache. In this day and age, this is not recognized enough. Good job guys.

I cannot top that last topic, so I'll just wish everyone a safe and happy 4th of July.

Darrell Woolfolk
ABTO President
480-818-1715

TENTATIVE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday,	July	13	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday,	July	19	9:30am	ABTO Membership Meeting @ Val Vista Lakes Pro Shop
Sunday,	August	10	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting @ Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday,	August	16	9:30am	ABTO Membership Meeting @ Val Vista Lakes Pro Shop
Sunday,	Sept.	14	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting @ Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday,	Sept.	20	TBA	ABTO Membership Meeting tentative at Ryan House
Sunday,	Oct.	12	Noon	ABTO Board Meeting @ Ginny Morris Residence
Saturday,	Oct.	18	TBA	ABTO Membership Meeting @ John & Diane Snider's home

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ABTO Membership Meeting
July 19, 2025

Val Vista Lakes Pro Shop
1600 E. Lakeside Drive
Gilbert, AZ 85234

9:30am-Meeting begins
10:00am-Topics
Landscaping, Misc. items.

Sorry no food served this month
Water will be available

2025 Membership Meetings-Tentative

July 19-Val Vista Lakes Pro Shop
August 16-Val Vista Lakes Pro Shop
September 20-Possibly Ryan House
October 18-John & Diane Snider's Home
November 15-Steve & Judy Lewis Home
December 6-ABTO Dinner



ABTO 2025 DUES

Dues: \$35.00
Name Tag: \$12.00

The 2025 Dues may be paid at Membership-Meetings or if you prefer to pay by mail (No Cash), mail your payment to:

Arizona Big Train Operators
P.O. Box 50428
Mesa, AZ 85208

Or contact Darrell Woolfolk 480.818.1715

WHEELS, REPLACEMENT TIES
and ABTO Merchandise For Sale

Bachman Wheels-31mm metal wheels-

6 cards-\$98.00 case

American Ties-Case of 48--\$48.00

Euro Ties-Bundles of 20--\$23.00

ABTO Merchandise includes hats, t-shirts, golf shirts, vests and patches

VESTS ON SALE—\$30.00—ALL SIZES

Cash, check and credit cards accepted

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ABTO Membership Meeting Minutes, June 21, 2025 held at VVL Pro Shop

1/ Welcome-Darrell welcomed everyone and began meeting at 9:40am

2/ Richard Nedrow's Collection-Darrell mentioned that the family went with the eBay Auction and Vince had seen some of the items on that website. The son had told Darrell that ABTO gets first choice if anything is left over. ABTO was willing to write a check first thing and bring up to members to purchase at the ABTO auction. Darrell read off some of the prices that he had presented to the son. Steve Lewis mentioned that the family will be lucky if they get 15 cents on a dollar.

3/ Presentations: Darrell Woolfolk, Vince Simpson & Don Sorenson

Coupler Height-Darrell had mentioned that Mark McKellip had always asked about couplers. Darrell spoke about coupler heights and mentioned that there are different brands of couplers. Steve L. mentioned he thought Bachman was selling Aristocraft couplers. Darrell had suggested their should be a conversion car in everyone's collection.

Lubrication-Don spoke about syringes being handy to use. He has a glass syringe filled with WD40 that is good for couplers. A long needle syringe is good for oil. 3 in 1 oil good for wheels. Darrell had brought the truck off of the tender of a car that he had purchased and would like to display the whole set at Railfair and will ask if that would be possible. The collection was built 45 years ago.

Track Cleaning-Vince spoke about track cleaning and works best by cleaning by hand. Can use track power by using a bright block for Aristocraft 4 wheel caboose. Bright Block-\$45.00 and Caboose for \$75.00 plus shipping per item. Can use a sanding block-Scotch Brite. Vince handed out samples of Masonite pieces to try out cleaning track and let him know your thoughts about using the Masonite at the July meeting.

Weighting Cars-Can use weights or adjust the screw can work. Darrell mentioned that he has 3" wide steel plates available for members, just contact him. Steve Lewis mentioned that Hobby Lobby has Pinewood Derby Weights found in the toy department.

Then a question and answer session followed.

Thank you to Darrell, Vince and Don for their presentations.

4/ July Meeting-VVL Pro Shop-Landscaping-Darrell mentioned previously plants and landscaping was scheduled. Trevor Fields will ask his mother, Carolyn, if she would be interested in doing a presentation on landscaping, etc.. Richard Webster uses artificial water.

5/ August Meeting-VVL Pro Shop-Junk Collecting-by using various things out of misc. items. Ceramic tile can be used. Take junk and how you can use on your layout. Darrell mentioned that Joanne Gardner was good at knowing what to do with things she was going to purchase.

From the Floor

It was mentioned needing different faces with presentations. John Snider made tunnels after a presentation. Ernie Broughton spoke about he and Anita's ride on the Black Hills Railroad known at the 1880 Train.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:45am

Membership Meeting Minutes submitted by Ginny Morris, Secretary.



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Membership Meeting Photos



2025 SWAP MEETS & SHOWS

Grand Canyon Mini-Swap Meet

Saturday, July 19, 2025 9am-11am

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

1212 E. Glendale Avenue

Phoenix, AZ 85020

Beat the Heat Model Train Show

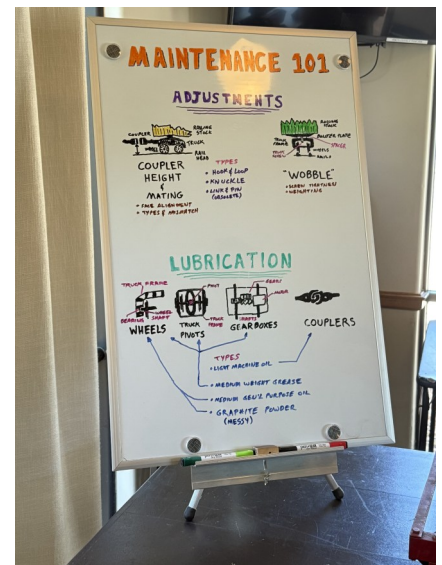
Saturday, July 26, 2025 from 9am

Embry Riddle Aeronautical Univ

3700 Willow Creek Road

Prescott, AZ 86314

Check ArizonaModelTrains.com for updates





Arizona Big Train Operators
1633 E. Lakeside Drive
Unit 1
Gilbert, AZ 85234

ARIZONA BIG TRAIN OPERATORS



OBJECTIVES

Membership in Arizona Big Train Operators (ABTO) is open to anyone with an interest in gardening and the creation & operation of large scale railways. At our meetings, items of mutual interest associated with the hobby are discussed and demonstrated.

Meetings are typically held at member's homes, where they have the opportunity to showcase their railway creations. General meetings are usually held on the third Saturday of the month.

ABTO BOARD MEETINGS

Board meetings will be held on Sunday prior to the general meeting of each month. Board meetings are open to members who are current on their dues and have an item for the agenda. If you plan to attend, call a Board Member to confirm location, time and date.

ABTO MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The renewal fee is \$35.00 per year. This entitles you to attend all meetings and events and to receive the monthly newsletter. Each name badge will be an additional \$12.00.

Members are encouraged to contribute articles, letters, illustrations and/or photographs related to garden railroading for inclusion in the newsletter and/or posting on the club website

Members who have hobby-related items for sale or trade may submit an advertisement for publication and/or posting at no charge. Please limit each ad to a maximum of four lines. Accompanying photos will be considered for publication as space allows.